

Message Text

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46

ORIGIN SS-15

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DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:P JOHNSON

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P 231828Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY AIRCRAFT PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 121116 TOSEC 010270

FOL SENT ACTION TO SECSTATE INFO BANGKOK PARIS CANBERRA CINCPAC
MAY 23, 1975 FROM VIENTIANE

QUOTE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 3649

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

CANBERRA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, PFOR, LA, US

SUBJ: FORMAL PGNU REQUEST TO RENEGOTIATE 1951 AID AGREEMENT

1. EMBASSY AFTERNOON OF MAY 23 RECEIVED FOLLOWING FIRST
PERSON NOTE TO CHARGE FROM FOREIGN MINISTER PHOUMI VONGVICHIT
MARKED "TRES URGENT":

"MR. CHARGE D'AFFAIRES,

"THE AGREEMENT ON ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION
SIGNED SEPTEMBER 9, 1951, BY THE ROYAL LAO GOVERNMENT AND
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA APPEARS TODAY
OVERTAKEN BY NEW CONJUNCTURE AND THE CURRENT REALITIES OF
THE COUNTRY.

"DURING THE YEAR IN COURSE, THIS FACT HAS PROVOKED REPERCUSSIONS
IN THE SPIRIT OF THE POPULATION AS EXPRESSED BY MOVEMENTS
WHICH COULD IMPAIR THE FRIENDSHIP OF THE LAO AND AMERICAN
PEOPLES.

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" FOR THIS REASON, THE PGNU, ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, HAS PROPOSED

TO THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT THE SUPPRESSION OF USAID IN
VIENTIANE AND ITS OFFICES IN THE PROVINCES, IN ORDER TO
ALLOW AMERICAN ASSISTANCE TO TAKE A FORM MORE IN CONFORMITY
WITH REALITY AND WITH THE WISHES OF THE LAO POPULATION.
THIS IS WHAT I HAVE ALREADY PROPOSED TO HIS EXCELLENCY WHITEHOUSE
AND RECENTLY TO YOURSELF" I HAVE JUST LEARNED TODAY WITH
JOY FROM HIS HIGHNESS THE PRIME MINISTER THAT YOU HAVE
INFORMED HIM OF THE DECISION OF YOUR GOVERNMENT TO DISSOLVE
ALL THE OFFICES OF USAID IN THE PROVINCES AS WELL AS ITS
CENTRAL OFFICE IN VIENTIANE.

" ON THE BASIS OF THE NEW DECISION BY WASHINGTON, THE PGNU
PROPOSES TO INSTITUTE WITH THE AMERICAN SIDE OFFICIAL
NEGOTIATIONS TO WORK OUT A NEW ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL
COOPERATION AGREEMENT MUTUALLY ADVANTAGEOUS FOR THE TWO
COUNTRIES AND IN ADDITION TO REINFORCE THE FRIENDSHIP
BETWEEN THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AND THE LAO PEOPLE AND TO
DEVELOP ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO
COUNTRIES.

"WHILE AWAITING PROMPT REPLY ON YOUR PART: I BEG YOU TO
BELIEVE, MR. CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, THE EXPRESSION OF MY HIGH
CONSIDERATION."

(SIGNED) PHAGNA PHOUMI VONGVICHIT, VICE PRESIDENT OF
THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

2. COMMENT: THE SPEED WITH WHICH THIS NOTE WAS PRE-
PARED AND DELIVERED PROVES THAT THE LAO FOREIGN MINISTRY
CAN MOVE WHEN IT WANTS TO. TEXT AND TURN OF PHRASE
INDICATE PHOUMI'S AUTHORSHIP AS WELL AS HIS KEEN DESIRE
TO MOVE AHEAD ON NEGOTIATING NEW AID AGREEMENT. WE SHALL
CABLE TEXT OF PROPOSED REPLY AND RECOMMENDATIONS MAY 24.
CHAPMAN UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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